AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims according to the following listing. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of making a multimeric protein, comprising:

(a) providing a first, a second, a third and a fourth nucleotide sequence that encode a signal peptide sequence, a first peptide of interest, a propeptide and a second peptide of interest, respectively;

(b) connecting the 3' terminus of the first nucleotide sequence to the 5' terminus of the second nucleotide sequence;

(c) connecting the 3' terminus of the second nucleotide sequence to the 5' terminus of the third nucleotide sequence; and

(d) connecting the 3' terminus of the third nucleotide sequence to the 5' terminus of the fourth nucleotide sequence, so that an artificial polynucleotide results and is comprised of the four nucleotide sequences, and wherein the nucleotide sequence that encodes a first peptide of interest can be the same as or different from the nucleotide sequence that encodes a second peptide of interest;

(e) introducing the resulting artificial polynucleotide into a host organism by transfection, or by stable transformation;

(f) allowing the artificial polynucleotide to be expressed in the host organism whereby a preproprotein is made;

(g) allowing the preproprotein to be processed by cellular mechanisms into a proprotein by release of the signal peptide ~~mature polypeptide in the endoplasmic~~

~~reticulum and/or golgi body of the host cell,~~ followed by release of the propeptide to form a mature polypeptide; and

(h) allowing at least two copies of the mature polypeptide to bond to each other to form a mature multimeric protein.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the multimeric protein is an antibody or a Fab fragment or a derivative of either the antibody or the Fab fragment, the ~~derivate~~ derivative having binding properties including ability to bind to its cognate ligand.

18-26. (Canceled)